BUSINGOND From the SIA

mend from the sky," found in a meteor by an ancestor, has existed between Col. Arthur Stanley and his cousin, Judge Lamer Stanley. The feud is dugmented by the fact that the succession to the Stanley earldon in England may come to an American family. When his wife dies after having given birth taming. When his wire dies after daring gives out a best a daughter tol. Stauler buys and substitutes as best a new norm gypsy buy. Three years later the gypsy mother steals the colonel's daughter, who is being reared in secret, and obtains possession of the "diamonal from the sky" and a document that holds the secret of the false helf.

When the daughter, Esther Stanley, whom Hagar has grown to love, groves up, Hagar returns to Virginia with her, hoping to right the wrong done her and that she has done. She obtains the consent of Dr. Lee, Col. Stanley's old friend, to mlopt Esther as hir daughter in the hope that Hagir's son, the sup-posed Arthur Stauley II., will fall in love with Esther and so the will become mistrees of Stauley hall, which is not right. In: Lee exacts as his condition that he keep in custody the fateful diamend. Dr. Lee warns Hagar that her own is a problemte, unfit for Esther. but the Lopes for the best. Arthur falls in love with Esther, as does his been companion, Blair Stanley, the cousin, who would be the rightful heir to the earldom

In endeavoring to steal the diamond from Br. Lee. Shair causes the death of the old in ter. Arthur Stan-ley assumes the cours of the murder in the hope that by assumes the caus of the moreer in the hope that he will himself escape and that Platt will five a straighter life. At a tournament Arthur, who has left a farminomic where he has been working incognito, onesats Blair and crowns Eather Quien of Love and Beauty. Blair, fealous of the honor which he wished to confer upon Vivian Marston, an adventures, being Arthur. While the sheriff's being informed, question, an organ grinder, hundred's the sheriff to Diair and thus couldes Arthur to escape.

Arthur, finding that a clidenan who has been hunting at the bounds hus been killed by the limit of a tree, changes apparel with him, and when the posse rides up the described in taken to Stanley hall before it is recognized that it to not Arthur's. Arthur, thes eludes the posse. In the mountime Hagter, through a detective, has second finder prints which establish Blair's guilf and Arthur's teneconce of the murder. She proposes & Phair's moffier rot to divulge her secret or condition that Hagar and Exther are estab-lished in Element' seriety and are received in Stan-

A neg s low i Fring owls finds in a nest in the top of a tree the despined from the sky, which Quabla's menticy had tal ta up there and deposited for an egg-which he had stelen.

Blair Stauley tests Hogar over the head with a poker, takes from her the unger print photographs that establish his guilt, and fees, leaving Hegar untel acres in mind. -At Studies hall Hogar, still mentally unbalanced, cries out for her child, but notonly gives any credence to what she says. In the meanwhile Marmaduke Smythe comes to inform young Arthur Stanley that he is helr to the Stanley earliest and the Warwickshire estate. Learning of the secondtions against Arthur, Smythe sage that the estate will

> [Copyright: 1915; By Roy L. McCardell] CHAPTER NI.

"THE WEB OF DESTINY." AGING at Vivian Maraton's cool dismissal of him after admitting the had married him only to gain possession of the diamond from the sky, Blair Stanley was not wholly pleased at receiving money from his mother in Richmond and news that he might return. He had half a mind not to go back to Richmond, but he felt sure that there was small hope of getting trace of the diamend now that it had failen into the clutches of the train robbers. "But if Vivian gets it—and she will get it if she hears of it-and such a gem will make its presence known," he thought-"she must send for me. Only as my wife can she hope to have any claim on the Stanley heirleam. And if she will not have me without the diamond she will have to have me with it!"

So Blair Stanley puld hi_ will at the second rate Los Angeles hotel and, taking his value, proceeded to the depot to take the train back east. He wondered if anything had been heard in Richmond or Fairfax of the missing Arthur Stanley, the rightful heir. He smiled as he thought of Arthur's quixotic nature in fleeing as a fuglitive actused of a crime he was guiltiess of-the murder of Dr. Lee.

"I would like to see myself be such a fool simply because I had gone broke

fall to the next of him. Blair Stadley, and sets out to find him at the home of Mrs. Burton Randolph in Richmond. Eather and Hagar leave Stanley hall, acompauled by Qualita, who drives off the sinister lake evell. Blair, taking great chances of detection, turns up in Richmond, lured by the adventuress, Vivian Marston, for whom he promises to get the diamond from the sky if she will be his wife. Vivian also enlists the Bloom brothers, gamblers, and Hake, a de-tective, to get the jewel. The jewel Itself, in Ar-thur's old dress suit, is found by the tramp, Strap McGes, who is later miredered and robbed of the gem in the Chinese den of Lung Hi. Later, in Lung HI's place, a thief steals the jewel from the eye of a

Blair, having invaded the den and stolen the diathe country. Just us the minister is about to proneutree them man and wife a detective arrives, de-mands the dismond, and arrests Blair for the murder of Dr. Loc. But Blate is too quick for him, floors the guizes, escape on an outgoing train. In the mean time Luke Loyell leads a revolution in the camp, which results in Esther's learning the Stanley secret good that Arthur is her brother. Luke Lovell, driven sion by force with a horde of tramps, but Qualiba feastrates the attempt by hurling a stone down the mountainede and demolishing the camp. Arthur, overbearing a plot to not the Overland Limited, attempts to provent it by trying to each the train as he rides alongsine it, but he is thrust from the platform and falls insemible by the track. Vivian and Blair are on

By a freak of providence Eather and Hagar are greed Th the bandwish started by Quabba. Luke Lovell follows Hager to Russley ball and there tries to sell Mrs. Stanley the Stanley secret, but without cucres. Mrs. Stanley, sessing that Esther is the real heir, plaus to make friends with her and effect grand son. She reasons that if Esther marries Blair lingar would withheld thy accusations or proofs of his guilt in connection with the murder of Ur. Lee. Esther in the meantime has rided Hagar's strong box and found proof that she, Esther, is the real bolt, She resoften to may nothing about it. At Mrs. Stanley's request Eather and Hagar accompany her to Mrs. Its John John in Bishmond. Ton Bishe, the detective and Abe Bloom promise Mrs. Stanley that if good" Blair's lead check for \$2,000 they will say morning about his guilt. Thrown from the Overland limited, Arthur Stanley, or "John Powell," attempts to frustrate the robbers of the train, but fails. The burgiars lost the train, taking from Blair and Viciou Mercian the directed from the sky. Vivian, en-rance turous over Blair and threatons blin with explaces unless he regales the dismond. And of the dismand itself? The robper who carried it was killed, and in falling the horse which he rade fell upon the tressure and sovered it up so that it eraded the eyes of the power. A month later Arthur Stanley, or "..." n Powell," finds it.

I know something you'd give a good many

can tell averybody's fortune but your own!" "Gypsies sometimes tell their own for-tunes, too," retorted Lövell. Then a sudden ides seized him. "What a fool I am!" he cried. "Why, if I told you what I knew you'd take advantage of it, but you'd never give me a cent. The secret I have is one that I will be paid to keep and not to tell!"

In Elekmond Mrs. Stanley still maintains her attitude of kindly interest in Eather. tegs of Esther's distinction of appearance and youth. While Hagar is placed in a sanitarium under the best of care Esther her loneliness, and she keeps up a good heart in the hope that her foster will be restored to reason and that Arthur will return and be cleared from the suspicion of guilt that attaches to him since his flight under the accusation of being the murderer of her guardian, Dr. Lee.

tramped to some good purpose. I have tramped a couple of thousand miles, and now that I meet up with you I can tell you thousand dollars to hear, because it would be worth money and more than money to

Binir regarded the gypsy tramp with a sneer. "It is funny," he said, "you gypsies

And laughing sardonically the gypsy turned upon ats heel and swaggered away

But Either little dreams that the habits of thought and the cold ambition of a life-



EVERY DAY AT A CERTAIN HOUR QUABBA GOES BY THE RANDOLPH HOUSE

inward comment. He had always hated his debonair supposed cousin, although he had always diaguised it, but now his hatred was mingled with contempt.

The hotel Blair had been stopping at was near the depot, and he was proceeding leisurely toward the station when he was aware that he was being followed by a hulking panhandler. He turned and faced the fellow. It was Luke Lovell, a gypsy that Blair had seen several times in and around Fairfax. The gypsy regarded him eagerly and touched his hat.

"It's a surprise to meet you here, Mr. Stanley," said the fellow. "I am out seving the world; I am not a gypsy any more." No. you're a tramp now," replied Blair

"Fill admit I have tramped," returned Lovell, not at all abashed. "But I have

time are not easily changed. Blair Stanlev's mother, in her austere way, has been kind to Esther, it is true, and the frivolous Randolph is kind and niso generous. But Mrs. Randolph is only a tool in the hands of her relative. Mrs. Stanley, and Eather but the destined victim of Blair's

mother's secret purpose. The one real friend that Eather has in Richmond is Quabba. Both he and Esther have realized it will not do for the humble hunchback organ grinder to be seen in proximity to the young girl, Mrs. Ran-dolph's latest protegé, "belog introduced into the best circles of Richmond," as that social light of the old southern capital would have phrased it. But every day at a certain hour Quabba goes by the Randolph louse, up the quiet side street. He does not pause to play his vulgar tunes in such hallowed precincts. He slips quietly by,

for an Idea for a Sequel to "THE DIAMOND FROM THE SKY"

\$10,000 for 1,000 Words or Less

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story as it runs every week, and then send in your suggestion. By following the narrative in print and observing the action on the screen, you will be given a splendid opportunity to supply a suggestion for a sequel. A board of three judges will decide which of the suggestions received is most acceptable. The judgment of that board will be absolute and final.

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Suggestions for a sequel will be accepted up to and including February 20, 1916. As it is the IDEA that is wanted, no attention will be paid to literary style. Contestants must confine their contributions to 1,000 words or less. Send all suggestions to THE AMERICAN FILM MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 6227 BROADWAY, CHICAGO, ILL.

but Esther is at the window of her room each day to see him pass, and they have arranged a signal should ever Esther need this humble, faithful friend. The signal is a vase of roses. When this is placed upon the window sill Quabba knows it is a sign that Esther needs him, and day by day he passes and is relieved to see that the signal is not displayed and all is well.

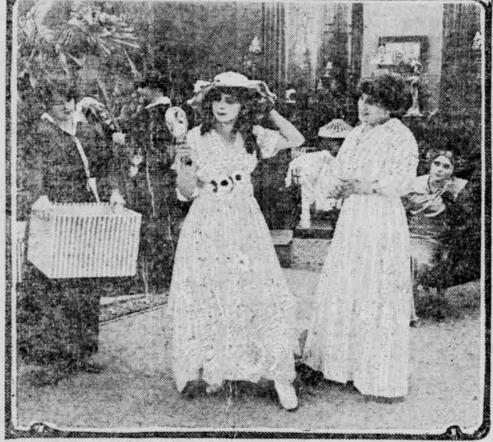
Esther, for the sake of the absent Arthur, on whom her thoughts constantly dwell, has carefully hidden the documents at Stanley hall that she found in Hagar's strong box. She has said no word to those around her that would indicate she deems herself to be other than the gypsy daughter of the mentally clouded gypsy woman whom the surgeons of Richmond hope to restore to reason such time as she is in condition for the perilous operation that will be necessury to effect this.

But Esther knows she is a Stanley of Stanley hall. It does not lessen her affec-

this young Arthur Stanley is caught and hanged for murdering Dr. Lee, whom I re-member as a rather decent old chap, why, the next of kin, who is also a ticket of leave man, or something of that sort, can come over and claim the carldom.

"As for this diamond from the sky, socalled, I believe it is all a hoax. I believe it is nothing but a jolly old bit of glass, don't you know, and I can't conceive why all you Yankees should be so deucedly set on scalping each other and lynching each other and pistoling each other for it. I am going back to England and look through the archives at Stanley castle with the hope of establishing a blood line in England that may get the house of lords to acknowledge its claim to the earldom and cut out these bloodthirsty Yankee Stanleys and their blooming big diamond!

When Blair returned to Richmond his mother received him with remarkable cordiality, considering the conditions under



MRS. STANLEY AND MRS. RANDOLPH ARE VERY KIND AND GENEROUS TO ESTHER

tion for the afflicted gypsy woman she has known as her mother. Esther does not even attempt to judge the motives that actuated Hagar Harding in revenge for having been deprived of her own child, who was reared as heir of Stanley, while she, Esther, the true Stanley, though a girl and heir to no great title beyond the sea, was brought up in the tawdry surroundings a gypsy camp. But the thought that she is a Stanley of Stanley hall, though it be not known nor acknowledged, brings a glow of pride and courage to Esther's heart and soul. She attributes Mrs. Stanley's sudden and substantial kindness to her to the fact that Mrs. Stanley has more than a suspicion of who she rightly is. But she and Blair's mother have tacitly ignored the matter. Esther only knows that her love for Arthur is greater than her pride at being a Stanley of Stanley hall. She would rather arm her heart with patience and let events shape themselves as a happy fate will decree, she hopes.

Her dreams and hopes are all to one end, and that is that Arthur will return, all suspicton removed, and take his place as heir to Stanley. She does not know how to reconcile this hope and dream with Mrs. Stanley's attitude is kind and Esther waits, possessing her soul with patience and her heart with hopes and dreams.

Marmaduke Smythe, the English lawyer, has given up his search for the heir to the Stanley earldom in disgust. He has left the matter in the hands of Detective Tom Blake and is departing for England. In his last interview with Detective Blake, Smythe stated his opinion of Yankees generally and

the Yankee Stanleys in particular. "I can conscientiously say that I do not believe the climate of this country is conducive to a titled aristocracy. Even the so-called landed gentry are a queer lot," says Lawyer Smythe. "When I was here eighteen years ago to verify the birth of the Yankee heir to the earldom I was in danger of my life, I assure you, from wild beauts and the even wilder natives. I was not surprised to learn of how they ambushed each other with tar and feathers and all that sort of thing. I had hardly returned to England when I learned of Col. Stanley dropping dead and Judge Stanley being shot or tomahawked in the mountains by natives-whether relatives, or savage redskins, or a Blackam for tribe nobody will ever know. For my part I shall return to England and look after the estates, and if which he had left both Fairfax and Richmond. Abe Bloom, the gambling house keeper, and his brother. Ike Bloom, the pawnbroker, received him with a cold. businesslike indifference, which was rather strange when it was remembered what both these gentlemen had endured at the hands of Blair. But both the Blooms were so obsessed with the desire to secure the diamond for their own at any cost that they had casually remarked they were glad to see him and to "let bygones be bygones."

And Blair looked upon Esther and saw that she was fair, and while his infatuation for Vivian was still strong, his unscrupulous mind dwelt with pleasure upon thought that if he married Esther the fact might arouse the jealousy of Vivian. If Vivian was a married woman, married other than to him, what would it matter if he married Esther? It might bring Vivian to terms as nothing else would. And, comferting himself with this perverted philosophy, Blair paid court to Esther.

Such were the threads in the web of destiny that were being woven around Esther in Richmond-threads at the ends of which sat Abe Bloom and Blair and his mother. weaving like spiders and yet with different purposes in view. Abe Bloom wove for the diamond from the sky. In far Los Angeles his agent, the luxurious Vivian Marston, wove also for the diamond-but for herself. Perhaps Mr. Bloom surmised this; but if so, he deemed he had the means that held his agent at his mercy. Mrs. Stanley wove her web for some deep purpose of her own, deeper now than it ever had been. If she suspicioned Arthur's claims to the Stanley heritage, the earldom in England, and the great diamond, so strangely missing, in America, were null and void, she said no word, but wove her part of the web in grim, purposeful silence.

Blair thought only of his own desires, and so he wove also. As for Detective Tom Blake, he helped the weaving, too; but whether he wove for Bloom, or for Blair, or for Blair's mother, or for himself, only Tom Blake knew, and

he did not deem the time propitious to tell.

himself "John Powell" had found an outlaw's stolen plunder under the skeleton of thur Stanley, the light and reckless young master of Stanley hall, near Fairfax, Va., would have recognized in this bronzed and shabby sheep herder the dashing scapegrace

who had fled under the onus of suspicion

of murder. But "Johr Powell" no longer thought of himself as Arthur Stanley. His cheeks burned with shame at the recollection of all the years he had squandered a heritage not his, He was a gypsy changeling and impostor. Back in Fairfax, let them think him a fugitive murderer, if they chose. He would bide his time and return a rich man, stand his trial, and, without implicating Blair, be cleared. He felt an added shame as he thought of Blair. Bad as Blair was, he, "John Powell," Arthur Stanley that had

back. What will you give me to keep my

mouth shut?"

"I have \$500 that I have saved," is "John Powell's" reply. "I never desire to be known again as Arthur Stanley. But I have reasons why I do not wish the secret you possess to be spread broadcast for the present. You are all right now. Take this money and go to the devil with it! But whether I killed Dr. Lee or not, I will kill you if you ever say one word of what you know. One thing more. Who told you"

"Hagar Harding," Hed Luke Lovell glibly. Then, seeing an incredulous look in the



been, had usurped his place. Blair was the rightful heir of Stanley. He, as "John Powell," would make a name and fortune for himself, and Biafr, all in good time, might have the Stanley earldom and the diamond from the sky. And then "John Powell's" thoughts would turn to Esther. Was she his sister, or was she, too, a changeling? He thought of Hagar, and his heart hardened. She was his mother, but she had wrought bitterness and woe.

"John Powell" carefully laid out his plans. He hid the outlaw treasure beneath me sheltering rocks in the desert, He took but a few hundred dollars of the money. He bided his time in patience until the hue and cry after such of the train robbers as had escaped with their lives had dled down. It was thought the survivors had gotten away with the plunder. Only the finder knew this plunder had fallen under a dying horse in the desert. "John Powell" resolved he would relinquish his employment as an ill paid sheep herder in the next month and take the stolen treasure with him and make it the capital on which to found a great fortune in the bustling west. He salved his conscience with the thought that when he had built up "John Powell's" vast fortune he would return the stolen money to the express company anonymously.

Meanwhile Luke Lovell journeys eastward again. But he cannot travel as Blair Stanley and other fortunates with money travel. Luke Lovell returns by freight. But in the desert the trainmen throw him from his place on the bumpers and mock him as, bruised and sore, he rises in the desert dust to curse them as the freight train bears them on.

Down the endless miles of railroad track, across the dusty desert, he staggers. Blinded by the sun, choking and burning with thirst, and half delirious, he stumbles from the track and makes his way, fevered with delirium, across the trackless desert, Then by a low growing mass of cacti something gleams before his aching eyes, gleams and dazzles him. Is it a vagary of his thirst madness, or is it the diamond from the sky, a fortune within his grasp? He lurches forward and snatches up the diamond from where the train robber in his death agony from the pursuing posse's rifle bullets has upon the great jewel a brown lance strikes him. In the ringing of the fever in his brain he has not heard the warning rattle of death guarding the diamond. But even in his delirium the fevered brain of Luke Lovell knows the thrust of the brown lance. A rattlesnake has bitten him! With a hoarse scream of despair he convulsively throws up his hands. The diamond flies from his nerveless grasp and settles again in the dust of the desert twenty feet away, and Luke Lovell pitches forward on his face in his agony, giving himself up as

So, half conscious, "John Powell," sheep herder, finds him; and so "John Powell" bears him to his lonely camp fire and succors and restores him. Lovell is able to moan his plight. Fortunately, his rescuer has a flask of whisky and a canteen water. He doses the half conscious Luke and, whether the whisky or whether the sturdy constitution of the gypsy is to be credited, Luke Lovell is brought back from the laws of death.

It is a strange fate, the gypsy thinks when he can .hink coherently, that it has been his destiny to meet the real and the usurping heir of Stanley and to clutch again the priceless Stanley heirloom, the diamond from the sky. He laughs sardonically, and then tells Arthur, whom he now recognizes as he recognized Blair Stanley, that just a few days since he has met up with the latter in Los Angeles.

"I don't know what he had run away for," growled Luke; "but, whatever it was, it had been squared, for I found out he was going back to Richmond. But now that you have saved my life in this God-forsaken desert. I'll do you a favor-a big favor. I know something that the other Stanleys would give all they have to know. What will you give me if I don't tell them what I know? You didn't kill that old doctor, and I know that some day you are going

other's eyes, he added surllly, "Hagor's gone daffy; that's why she told me. But she don't talk to anybody now, and I know she didn't tell anybody else. They would only think she was raving if she did. Mrs. Stanley has taken her to Richmond to an asylum. Mrs. Stanley has the girl Esther with her. They are at Mrs. Randolph's, where the ball was," adds Luke.

"John Powell" breathed a sigh of relief. Then all is well with Esther, at least. He does not question Lovell further, realizing if Lovell knew aught concerning Eather the gypsy would have blurted it out.

And so Luke Lovell, gypsy blackmailer, and "John Powell," sheep herder, part. But as the gypsy goes across the desert to the nearest desert town and railroad station he searches, ever searches, for the diamond from the sky. He has not told "John Powell" of the diamond; even now he half believes that it was but a figment of his heat crazed brain.

Some miles across the desert travels a desert Indian family. They have two horses. One the buck rides at his ease, and the other drags a travols-the two rude poles fastened to the horse, the ends of which drag across the desert, and lashed to the poles are the Indian's goods and chattels. Beside the travels trudges the squaw. On her back her papoose sleeps. strapped to its board, in the sun. Across the desert the travols scratches its way. The eyes of the squaw fall upon the fresh tracks that it makes. A little spray of sand sprinkles over something that glistens brightly in the sun. The squaw stoops down and gathers up the diamond from the sky and wakes her papoose to shake the new found gleaming trinket plaything before its beady eyes!

So the days pass in Virginia and Callfornia alike. "John Powell" ceases to be a sheep herder, and, taking with him nearly \$100,000 cash in his battered old value, un known to any man, he bids good-by to his friends at the sheep ranch and, pausing only in Los Angeles to buy a becoming outfit of business clothes, he goes to the adjacent oil fields to, as he says to himself grimly, buy himself rich!

He writes to Esther, guardedly and without signature, from Los Angeles. The letter reaches Esther in the nick of time Mrs. Randolph's maid gives it to her, in forming her that Mrs. Stanley has issued orders that if any letter should come to Esther that it be delivered to Mrs. Stanley

The persecutions of Blair Stanley have become intolerable. And when Esther has gone defiantly to Blair's mother Mrs. Stanley has taunted her with the cruel return that she, Esther, is a beggar on the bounty of the mother of the man who honors her with an offer of marriage! Further, Mrs. Stanley icily reminds Esther that since Hagar has lost her reason no trace of the supposed wealth of Hagar can be found. The operation necessary to restore Hagar's mind will cost \$1,000. If Esther accepts Blair, Mrs. Stanley informs her, this money will be forthcoming and the operation will

be performed. It is on the point of Esther's tongue to speak and declare herself for what she is, the legitimate daughter of the late Col. Stanley and the heir at least of the depleted estate of Stanley hall. But she counsels herself to the wisdom of silence. For Arthur Stanley's sake-though, in truth, he is not Arthur Stanley, but Hagar Harding's son-Esther keeps silent of what she knows of her true status and the written proofs in her dead father's handwriting that she has hidden at Stanley hall concerning all this. She bows coldly to Blair's mother and walks away with head erect.

Safe in her room, she impulsively resolves to seek out Arthur and tell him all. She takes the vase of roses and places it on the window sill. That night Quabba waits, shaded from the moon by the wistaria vine, at the side of the Randolph mansion. That night a girlish figure clambers resolutely from the window and down the vines, and Esther Stanley is gone with a hunchback organ grinder, seeking the one she loves with all her devoted heart-over the hills

and far away! [TO BE CONTINUED.]